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cussion of elementary law in anywise *germane* to the comprehensive general subject is explained. This exposition of matters of common knowledge to the profession will be appreciated by business men, to whom the Sixth "Title" on Contracts by Telegraph will be very useful. On the other hand, these matters of primary learning will in nowise hinder the lawyer who seeks for information on any of the numerous and obscure points of the general subject, which are well presented in the volume in hand.

In another matter, too, our authors have been very successful; that is, in supplying "the needs of both the case lawyer and the one who relies upon principles." In fact, the dual aspect of the book has been so well managed that much of the text might stand alone, after the manner of the civil law authorities, who have little concern with the doctrine of *stare decisis* and look rather to the intrinsic reason of rules of law. And the citation of cases is thorough enough to satisfy the most voracious of case-digesters.

In view of the immense labor involved and the excellent result obtained, "Electric Law" is like to become a standard book.

E. B. S., Jr.

REGISTERING TITLE TO LAND. BY JACQUES DUMAS, LL. D
Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1900.

As we ordinarily understand registration in the United States, we mean what Dr. Dumas calls, an imperfect system of registration, to wit: registration of deeds; but the author clearly shows its incompleteness. The holder, under a registered deed, may only claim a right of priority against a third person whose right has not been made public, and he is constantly exposed to the consequences of any defect in his grantor's title.

Now, a perfect system of registration has for its object, to make a title absolutely indefeasible. It contains three distinctive features: (1) Grant of an absolute title; (2) compulsion; (3) compensation for errors. In only five or six countries has the complete system gained a foothold. A brief view of its workings in Australia, under the management of Sir Robert Torrens, will show its purpose. The owner of land there makes application to the "register," who refers the question of title to a board of "examiners of titles." They pass upon the applicant's right to the land and the register gives him a certificate setting forth the nature of the estate. This certificate vests the estate indefeasibly. If it should happen that the examiners made a mistake and the real owner was deprived of his property, then a compensation was paid to him for the full value of the lands, which fund is raised by a contribution on the value of the land. The benefits derived from this are twofold: (1) No adverse claim can be raised to disturb the owner, under the registered title; (2) it affords great facility in further dealings with the land, because the next vendee has to look no further than the certificate of his vendor.

From this brief statement we can readily see the benefits which Dr. Dumas says, registration has provided: (1) Security. Registra-

tion protects the registered owner against ejection, because registration can never be subject to rectification; it also protects the owner who by mistake has been registered out of his land, by giving him compensation. (2) Simplicity. Compared with the trouble of examining titles, this system renders clear what was once intricate. (3) Economy. As shown by the Australian system the cost is only nominal.

This system is becoming more and more popular. It has been adopted by Illinois, Ohio, and Massachusetts. Dr. Dumas says the chief objection to it is made by the legal profession, based on the fear of its advantages, rather than of its deficiencies.

F. W. S.

THE MARITIME CODES OF ITALY. By HON. F. W. RAIKES. London: Effingham Wilson. 1900.

Our author has had wide experience in maritime codes, having previously translated and edited the codes of Belgium, Holland, Portugal and Spain. The maritime law of Italy includes a code for use in war-time and is important also because of its origin in the Roman law and its consequent relation to codes of like nature as a fountain head. The work under discussion is hardly more than a translation of the Code, with short explanatory notes, accompanied by citations of English and Italian cases. It may be that a larger book would be out of place now; at all events, a work of this nature would form a very durable foundation for a bulkier volume. As an exposition of statute law it will be of value to all who are at all concerned with Admiralty practice.

J. M. D.

CASES ON INSURANCE. Edited by EDWIN H. WOODRUFF, Cornell University. New York: Baker Voorhis & Co. 1900.

The man who studies law by the case system regards as invaluable the production of such a book as "A Selection of Cases on the Law of Insurance," recently published by Professor Edwin H. Woodruff, of Cornell. A case book of this kind serves two purposes: (1) it is a great time saver to the student, who otherwise has to search through the reports, and (2) it presents the whole aspect of the law in a clear and concise way. Professor Woodruff is perfectly familiar with the needs of the student, in such a work, having edited more than one book of the same sort. In the table of contents is to be found an analysis of the law of insurance which, if carefully followed in reading the cases, will give the student a broad general knowledge of the law as it is to-day, for the very latest decisions are contained therein. Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the book is the author's effort to simplify the work of the student. Thus, instead of using a dozen cases to illustrate one phase of the law, we find only three or four. If a case illustrates more than one